

1. (Four Times Amended) An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and
- b) a polypeptide comprising a naturally-occurring amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:1.

18. (As Once Amended) A polypeptide of claim 1, comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

19. (As Twice Amended) A composition comprising a polypeptide of claim 18 and a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.

20. (As Twice Amended) A composition comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 and a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.

25. (As Once Amended) A polypeptide of claim 1 which comprises a naturally-occurring amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

26. A composition comprising a polypeptide of claim 25 and a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.

27. A method for producing a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and said recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 1, and
- b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.

28. A method of claim 27, wherein the polypeptide comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

29. A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an agonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and
- b) detecting agonist activity in the sample.

30. A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and
- b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.

31. A method of screening for a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) combining the polypeptide of claim 1 with at least one test compound under suitable conditions, and
- b) detecting binding of the polypeptide of claim 1 to the test compound, thereby identifying a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 1.

32. A method of screening for a compound that modulates the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1, said method comprising:

- a) combining the polypeptide of claim 1 with at least one test compound under conditions permissive for the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1,
- b) assessing the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test compound, and
- c) comparing the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test compound with the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in the absence of the test compound, wherein a change in the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test compound is indicative of a compound that modulates the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1.